

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BAR-BENCH-MEDIA CONFERENCE

A meeting of the Bar-Bench-Media Conference was held on Monday, January 11, 2010, at 12:30 p.m. in the Supreme Court Conference Room in Wilmington, The Conference members in attendance were:

Members of the Electronic News Media
Peg Brickley

Members of the Print News Media
Elizabeth Bennett
Randall Chase
Rita Farrell (by telephone)

Members of the Bench
Justice Carolyn Berger
Judge Arlene Minus Coppadge (by telephone)

Members from the Bar
Paul A. Fioravanti, Jr., Esquire
Kimberly L. Gattuso, Esquire
Francis G.X. Pileggi, Esquire

Phil Milford and Steve Taylor were also present for the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by Kim Gattuso, the Chair of the Conference.

The first agenda item was the approval of the draft minutes from the April 20, 2009 meeting. The minutes were approved.

The election of the Chair and Vice Chair was the next item of business. It was the Print News Media's turn to Chair the Conference. Elizabeth Bennett was elected as the Chair. It is the Bench's turn to nominate a Vice Chair. Judge Ableman was nominated as Vice Chair and elected to the position on a conditional basis. Judge Ableman was not present at the meeting, and the Conference wanted to give her an opportunity to comment on her availability to serve as Vice Chair.

Under Old Business, the topics of the Rules for Expanded Electronic Media Coverage of Trial Court Proceedings and issues related to ownership of court transcripts by court reporters were briefly discussed. Steve Taylor and Chuck Durante will discuss these issues as agenda items at the next Conference meeting.

Under New Business, Peg Brickley brought to the Conference's attention that the United States Bankruptcy Court in Delaware was conducting hearings by telephone conference calls with access provided by Court Call – a commercial vendor. The debtor pays for the call, but there is no public access without cost for the media to attend the telephonic hearing. On a case by case basis, the media has been able to get free access to listen to the hearings; however, a Bankruptcy Court rule or policy is needed to address free public access to telephone hearings. It was suggested that Peg

contact Judge Ambro or David Bird, the Clerk of Bankruptcy Court, to discuss the issue and possible solutions. Peg will meet with David Bird and report back to the Conference at the next meeting.

Conference members suggested that a representative from the Court of Chancery and a representative from the Bankruptcy Court should be asked to attend the Conference. Steve Taylor will contact the Chancellor about a representative from the Court of Chancery.

Randall Chase noted that the Court of Chancery schedule was not available on the Judiciary's website and asked if the entire Court of Chancery schedule could be maintained on the website on a current basis. Randall also commented over disputes in access to the public terminal in the Court of Chancery in Dover and the need for more public access terminals. Steve Taylor will bring both issues to the Chancellor's attention.

Randall Chase asked the Conference members if they knew anything about a secret mock trial before Judge Farnan in the District Court. The mock trial involved the duPont Company and used the time and resources of the District Court. The Associated Press was going to write a letter to the District Court about access to the mock trial.

The final agenda item was the selection of the next Conference meeting date. The next Conference meeting will be held on Monday, April

12, 2010 at 12:30 p.m. in the Supreme Court Conference Room in Wilmington. Lunch will be served. A conference call dial in number, for Conference members unable to be present at the meeting, will be circulated to the Conference members prior to the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen D. Taylor".

SDT/dlc

April 6, 2010